

# HERTEL LANDFILL

## NEW YORK

EPA ID# NYD980780779



**EPA REGION 2**  
**CONGRESSIONAL DIST. 26**  
Ulster County  
Plattekill

**Other Names:**  
**Environmental Landfills, Inc.**  
**Dutchess Sanitation**

## Site Description

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The 80-acre Hertel Landfill site is an inactive waste disposal area located in the Town of Plattekill that was established in 1963 as a municipal waste landfill. Approximately fifteen acres of the land were used for disposal. In 1970, Dutchess Sanitation Services, Inc. began hauling refuse from Dutchess County to the Hertel Landfill. Dutchess Sanitation purchased the landfill in 1975. The Ulster County Department of Health revoked the landfill permit in 1976 due to violations. This action and a Town ordinance prohibiting the dumping of out-of-town garbage at the landfill resulted in the permanent closing of the site in 1977. Approximately 1,350 people live within 3 miles of the landfill. There are about 500 people living within a mile of the site. Residents within the area obtain their drinking water from individual wells. The site is situated in the valley of a tributary to Black Creek and is surrounded by wetlands.

**Site Responsibility:** This site is being addressed through Federal, State and potentially responsible party actions.

### NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 10/01/84

Final Date: 06/01/86

## Threats and Contaminants

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Groundwater and surface water are contaminated with high levels of iron and manganese. Soil contaminated with arsenic, chromium and polynuclear aromatics has been contained beneath a protective cap. Access to the site has been restricted by the installation of perimeter fencing. Pollutants have seeped into the wetlands on the site, posing a possible threat to ecologically sensitive resources, wildlife, or aquatic biota.



## Cleanup Approach

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This site is being addressed in two long-term remedial phases focusing on (1) the reduction of soil contaminant mobility by containment through the installation of a solid waste landfill cap and (2) the extraction and treatment of contaminated groundwater.

## Response Action Summary

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**Entire Site:** The EPA has investigated the nature and extent of groundwater, surface water, and soil contamination at the site.



This study has been completed and a remedy for the site was documented in the September 27, 1991 Record of Decision (ROD). The response objectives have been defined as follows: 1) minimization of infiltration of rainfall and snow melt into the landfill, thus reducing percolation and leaching of contaminants; 2) minimization of further contamination of the wetlands; and 3) reduction in the movement and toxicity of the contaminated leachate into groundwater, and subsequent downgradient migration of contaminants.

The important features of the selected remedy are the installation of a cap designed and constructed in accordance with state sanitary landfill closure regulations, and the extraction, chemical precipitation and filtration of contaminated groundwater to remove dissolved metals, followed by ultraviolet oxidation of dissolved organic compounds. Construction of the landfill cap began in June 1997 and was completed in December 1998.

The necessity of extracting and treating the groundwater is being evaluated through an on-going groundwater monitoring program. EPA is moving cautiously in this area because of concerns that the groundwater treatment approach may have adverse impacts to the wetlands. Preliminary modeling indicates that the installation of a groundwater pump and treat system will cause an approximate 25-30% reduction in the size of the wetlands. It is anticipated that the construction of the cap should provide significant benefit to the groundwater quality by reducing the migration of contaminants from the landfill to the groundwater and that the groundwater treatment portion of the remedy may no longer be warranted.

## Site Facts

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In September 1992, a Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) was sent to six potentially responsible parties (PRPs), directing them to perform the remedial design/remedial action (RD/RA). Ford Motor Company was the only PRP at the time to comply with the UAO. In September 1998, EPA entered into a Consent Decree settlement with eleven PRPs, all of which had been recipients of one of two previously issued UAOs, for continued performance of the RD/RA. At the same time, EPA entered into a second Consent Decree settlement with eight other parties to recover Site costs.

## Cleanup Progress



After adding this site to the NPL, EPA performed preliminary investigations and determined that no immediate actions were required at the Hertel Landfill site while investigations leading to the final selection of cleanup activities were taking place. Subsequent field investigations have led to the selection of a remedial program which is currently being implemented. The primary features of the selected remedy are the installation of a cap and extraction and treatment of groundwater. Construction of the landfill cap was completed in December 1998 and included removing approximately 10,000 cubic yards of waste material from the adjacent wetland area and consolidation of this waste on the main landfill body. Also, approximately 50 drums containing varying amounts of waste were removed from the landfill during excavation and grading activities; these drums were sent to an off-site disposal facility.

The necessity of extracting and treating the groundwater is being evaluated through an on-going groundwater monitoring program which is designed to determine the potential impact to the wetlands due to groundwater extraction, and whether the completion of the cap will result in improved groundwater quality. It is anticipated that the construction of the cap should provide significant benefit to the groundwater quality by reducing the migration of contaminants from the landfill to the groundwater and that the groundwater treatment portion of the remedy may no longer be warranted. This determination should be made in 2002.

## Site Repository



Plattekill Town Hall, P.O. Box 45, Modena, New York 12548 and the Plattekill Public Library, Route 32, P.O. Box 25, Modena, New York 12548.